## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A presence tracking architecture for datagram-based protocols. A client application seeking to know the presence or lack thereof of a device and/or service utilizes a standard protocol in a non-intuitive way to trigger notification of the device and/or service before any associated timeout expires. At first presence, a multicast message is broadcast to notify all devices. Subsequently, on-demand notification may be requested by a client application by sending directly (*e.g.*, in unicast) to the device before its timeout has expired a message that is normally only sent in multicast. If capable, the device can then respond normally with a unicast message indicating it is on-line. If the response is not received, the device and/or service is determined to be off-line.